

Tub and Sink Cleaner

baking soda
Castile Soap or Murphy's Oil Soap

Use baking soda in place of scouring powder. Sprinkle it on porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet rag. Add soap to the rag for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film.

Window and Mirror Cleaner

1 part vinegar
3 parts water

Put vinegar in a spray bottle and fill to top with water. Spray on surface. Rub with a cloth diaper, lint-free rag, or sheets of newspaper. For outdoor windows use a sponge and wash with warm water mixed with a few drops of liquid soap. Rinse well and squeegee dry.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

baking soda
Murphy's Oil Soap

Sprinkle baking soda inside the bowl. Squeeze a couple of drops of soap in also. Scrub with a toilet bowl brush and finish outside surfaces with a rag sprinkled with baking soda. Rinse.

Linoleum Floor Cleaner

½ cup vinegar
bucket of warm water

Mop with a mixture of 1/2 cup vinegar in a bucket of warm water. The vinegar odor will go away shortly after the floor dries.

All-Purpose Cleaner

(for spots on linoleum, tile, and woodwork)
Murphy's Oil Soap

Add a drop of soap on a wet washcloth and rub briskly. A washcloth will last longer and create less waste than a sponge.

Copper Cleaner

1 Tablespoon vinegar
1 Tablespoon salt
water
vegetable oil (optional)

Mix vinegar and salt (a tablespoon of each) and apply to surface with a rag. Rinse thoroughly with water to prevent corrosion. Apply a little vegetable oil with a cloth and rub for a shiny appearance. Do not use this cleaner on lacquered finishes.

Drain Cleaner

½ cup baking soda
½ cup vinegar
boiling water

This recipe will free minor clogs and help prevent future clogs. Pour baking soda down the drain first, then the vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes. Pour a teakettle full of boiling water down the drain to clear it. Repeat if needed. If the clog is stubborn, use a plunger. If very stubborn, use a plumber's snake.

Oven Cleaner

1 cup baking soda
water

Mix baking soda with enough water to make a paste. Apply to oven surfaces, and let stand for several minutes. Use a scouring pad for scrubbing most surfaces. A spatula or bread knife is effective to get under large food deposits. This recipe will require "elbow grease," but it is non-toxic and safe for the whole family. Try spot cleaning your oven regularly; dirty ovens are less energy-efficient. Do not use this cleaner on self-cleaning ovens.